

BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

ビリーバーズ II

山本直樹

BELIEVERS
Naoki Yamamoto
Art Works

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
MANGASCREENER
AND
BAND OF THE HAWK

TRANSLATED BY
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GATSU

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BELIEVERS

2

CHAPTER 12	PHYSICAL EJECTION	7
CHAPTER 13	RE-ENACTMENT DRAMA	25
CHAPTER 14	INQUISITION	45
CHAPTER 15	MUTILATION	63
CHAPTER 16	DISMISSAL OF CHAIRMAN	81
CHAPTER 17	HAPPY TIMES	101
CHAPTER 18	NEW CHAIRMAN	121
CHAPTER 19	WONDERFUL NEWS	139
CHAPTER 20	LAND OF COMFORT	159
CHAPTER 21	NEW MEN	177
CHAPTER 22	EXODUS FROM BABYLON ON A BOAT	195

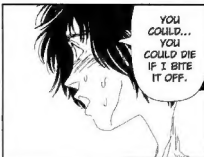
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The words that appear in double quotation marks in this story are terms that can only be understood by members of the organization depicted in Believers, and were originally meaningless words such as “jonerazaaffiu” or “pu” or “riuxnbakrb?xawmimvrkxnfkuycln7dvytsaru”, but for purpose of convenience and readability, they have been translated into relevant Japanese words. Readers are encouraged to change them to words of their choice whilst reading this work.



CHAPTER 12 PHYSICAL EJECTION

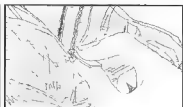
















9



...MY
THEORY
WAS
CORRECT.

YES,
THIS IS
EXACTLY
AS IT
FELT IN
THE
"DREAM".





GO GO
"CHAIRMAN"!!
GO GO
"VICE
CHAIRMAN"!!

10

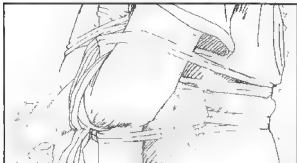


I WONDER IF I AM IN A STATE THAT WOULD CONVENTIONALLY BE DESCRIBED AS A "STATE OF PLEASURE". THIS "STATE OF PLEASURE" MAY SEEM AND FEEL LIKE A "STATE OF PLEASURE" ON AN OSTENSIBLE LEVEL, BUT THIS "STATE OF PLEASURE" IS NOT A TRUE "STATE OF PLEASURE", AS A TRUE "STATE OF PLEASURE" IS A DIFFERENT, MORE AESTHETIC "STATE OF PLEASURE", IN WHICH WE CELEBRATE THE PLEASURES AND BEAUTIES OF THE HUMAN MIND AND SPIRIT. A TRUE "STATE OF PLEASURE" SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT IS MORE CLEAN AND REFINED, LIKE PLAYING SPORTS UNDER THE SUN, FOR EXAMPLE.

10



I WILL NOT SUCCUMB. I CANNOT SUCCUMB. TO RESIST THESE SEXUAL PLEASURES, TO OBSERVE IT WITH CALMNESS, AND TO DENOUNCE IT IS THE FIRST STEP TO BECOMING THE "PERFECT BEING". THAT GOES FOR YOU AS WELL, "VICE CHAIRMAN". YOU MUST OBSERVE THE FILTHINESS AND THE LEWDNESS OF YOUR PRESENT ACTION WITH CALMNESS, AS THAT IS THE VERY OBJECTIVE OF THIS "PHYSICAL EJECTION".



DAMN IT!! I WILL
NOT LET MYSELF
SUCCEED TO THE
EVILNESS OF THIS
FOUL DESIRE!
"VICE CHAIRMAN",
PLEASE SUCK OUT
THE REPULSIVE P-
P-P-POISON,
POISON, POISON,
POISON THAT HAS
FOUND ITS WAY
INSIDE OF
ME!!!!



GGGGGGGG
GGGGGGGG
GGGGGGGG
GGGGGGGG
...





12



**NOW!
BITE IT
OFF!**



15







15



AND
AFTER
THAT

...

"VICE CHAIRMAN"
LOST 12 POINTS
AND FELL TO
36TH IN THE
RANKING.
"OPERATOR"
LOST 15 POINTS,
AND IS NOW
76TH.

THE
"RANKING"
FOR THE
"2ND
QUARTER"
HAS BEEN
ANNOUNCED.

THE THREE
BELIEVERS
CARRIED
ON AS IF
NOTHING
HAPPENED,
ACTUALLY.

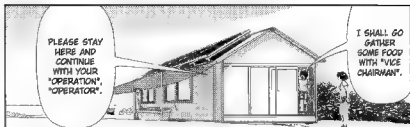
16

I SUPPOSE
THAT MEANS
THAT THE
REPORTS THAT
CLAIM HE HAD
BEEN CAPTURED
BY THE
"AUTHORITIES"
ARE FALSE?

WOW, THE
"3RD
DIVISION
CHIEF" IS
AMAZING.
HIS LEVEL
KEEPS
GOING UP
AND UP.

ALL MY
HARD
WORK
HAS DIS-
APPEARED
...

IT SEEMS
THAT YOU
TWO HAVE
BEEN
PENALIZED
FOR THE
"DIRECT
CONTACT"





CHAPTER 13
REENACTMENT DRAMA



2











"ENEMY"
...?"

'IT PAINS ME TO
SAY THIS, BUT
YOUR HUSBAND
MAY BE HOPE-
LESS NOW. HE
MAY ALREADY
HAVE FALLEN
INTO THE HANDS
OF THE
"ENEMY".



'WHAT?'

'WE MUST LEAVE
THIS PLACE. LET
US ESCAPE
TOGETHER FROM
THE CONFINES OF
THAT HORRIBLE
MAN'.



'HOW
TERRIBLE'

'THE
"ENEMY"
THAT
ATTEMPTS
TO IRRE-
VOCABLY
CORRUPT
OUR
MINDS'.

'YES, THE UNSEEN
"ENEMY". A HORR-
IBLE "ENEMY" THAT
WE CANNOT SEE,
BUT IS COMING
AFTER US ALL AS
SURELY AS THE
SUN WILL RISE'.



'BUT HE'LL
ONLY COME
AFTER US IF
WE RUN.
ESCAPING
HIM IS
IMPOSSIBLE'.



BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I FELT THAT THE BLAME DIDN'T LIE SOLELY WITH HIM. I FELT THAT PERHAPS I MIGHT HAVE SAVED HIM FROM BECOMING SUCH A VIOLENT MAN HAD I TRIED HARDER TO UNDERSTAND HIS "LONELINESS".



MY EX-HUSBAND WAS A VERY SHALLOW INDIVIDUAL, WHOSE ONLY INTEREST IN LIFE WAS TO WIN THE ATTENTION OF THOSE AROUND HIM. AND YET HE NEVER DID ANYTHING ABOUT IT, CONTENT WITH SIMPLY TALKING ABOUT HIS LOFTY DREAMS AND BRAGGING HOW HE WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT MAN SOMEDAY.



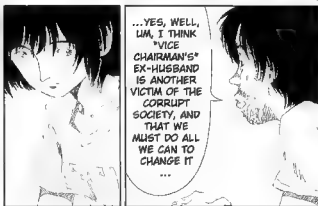
...PERHAPS THAT MENTALITY OF YOURS WAS THE VERY THING HE FOUND UNBEARABLE.

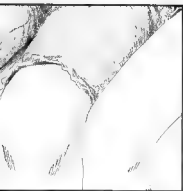
THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO "THINK FOR YOURSELF". THERE WOULD BE NO POINT TO THIS IF I JUST TOLD YOU THE ANSWER



...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

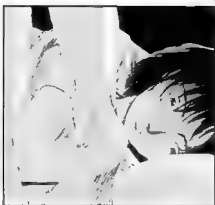
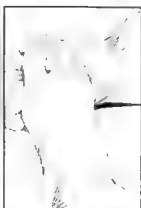


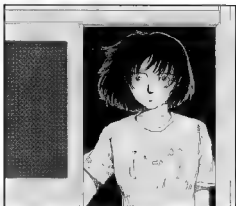












14





THE
MEMORIES
OF THE
VIOLENCE I
WAS
SUBJECTED
TO FROM MY
EX-HUSBAND
EVERYDAY.



BUT IT DID
HELP ME
RECALL THE
MEMORIES
THAT I HAD
REPRESSSED
WITHIN ME
FOR SO
LONG



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



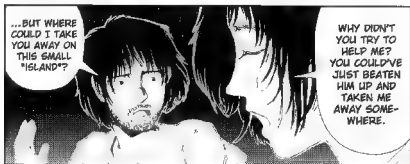
DO YOU
THINK THE
THINGS I DID
TO "CHAIR-
MAN" IN HIS
DREAM ARE
IN SOMEWAY
CONNECTED
WITH WHAT
WE WERE
DOING ON
THE BEACH?

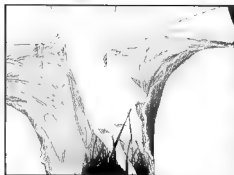


IMPOSSIBLE.
HE DIDN'T
GET A CLEAR
VIEW OF
WHAT WE
WERE DOING
...

PERHAPS
"CHAIRMAN" SAW
ME DOING THOSE
THINGS IN HIS "EVIL
DREAM" BECAUSE I
WAS DOING THE
SAME THING TO YOU.
PERHAPS HIS "SUB-
CONSCIOUS" CAUGHT
ON TO WHAT WE
WERE DOING ON AN
INSTINCTIVE
LEVEL.

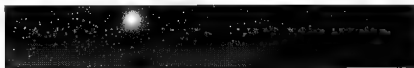




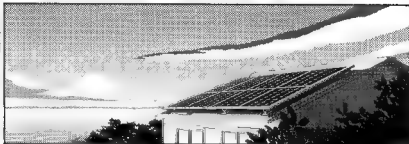


18









CHAPTER 14
INQUISITION







THE FACT THAT
YOU DON'T
REALIZE YOUR
MIND WAS
BEING
"CONTROLLED"
IS CLEAR
PROOF THAT IT
IN FACT IS
BEING "CONTROLLED"



WOULD
SOMEONE
WHOSE MIND IS
BEING
"CONTROLLED"
DECLARE THAT
THEIR MIND IS
BEING
"CONTROLLED"?
OF COURSE
NOT.



...YES...
I THINK I
WAS...

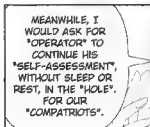


PLEASE
TELL ME
THE
"TRUTH".

YOU WERE
"CONTROL-
LING" "VICE
CHAIRMAN'S"
MIND. IS
THAT
CORRECT,
"OPERATOR"
?



6



MEANWHILE, I
WOULD ASK FOR
"OPERATOR" TO
CONTINUE HIS
"SELF-ASSESSMENT",
WITHOUT SLEEP OR
REST, IN THE "HOLE".
FOR OUR
"COMPATRIOTS".



IT'S CERTAINLY
TRUE THAT YOU
NEED TO UNDERGO
"ASSESSMENT" AS
WELL, "VICE CHAIR-
MAN", BUT ONLY
AFTER WE HAVE
FINISHED WITH "
OPERATOR".





I'M ONLY GETTING WHAT I DESERVE. I WAS THE ONE WHO COMMITTED THE MOST FORBIDDEN ACT OF THE "DESERTED ISLAND PROGRAM"

YOU MIGHT DIE IF YOU STAY IN THERE ANY LONGER, "OPERATOR".



WHY DIDN'T YOU ARGUE AGAINST HIM? WHY DIDN'T YOU RESIST? YOU COULD'VE RESORTED TO FORCE IF NEED BE, WHEN WE WERE FOUND OUT. SURELY YOU WOULD'VE WON

WHY DID YOU AGREE TO BE BURIED IN THE "HOLE" SO EASILY?



WE WOULD BOTH DIE, IF BOTH OF US WERE BURIED IN THE "HOLE".



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE. WHY DID YOU TAKE ALL THE BLAME ...?



...DO YOU INTEND TO DIE?



"OPERATOR"...



"CHAIRMAN" WILL UNDERSTAND, ONCE HE SEES THAT I HAVE BEEN "PURIFIED" AND REBORN.

OH, OF COURSE NOT. WHAT I MEAN IS, I WON'T LET MY FEAR OF DEATH INTERFERE WITH MY "PURIFICATION".



I MUST WORK HARD FOR MY "COMPATRIOTS".

DON'T WORRY, I WILL ACHIEVE "PURIFICATION" ...ER, I MEAN, I WILL LET MYSELF BE "PURIFIED".

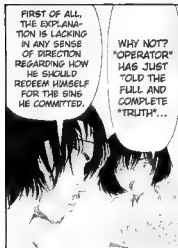






I HAVE NOW TOLD
THE FULL AND COM-
plete "TRUTH". I
FEEL THAT I HAVE
RID MY MIND AND
SPIRIT OF ANY EVIL-
NESS, AND HAVE
BEEN "PURIFIED".

WITH "VICE CHAIRMAN'S" TONGUE
WRAPPED AROUND MY GENITALS, I
FELT A SEXUAL EUPHORIA, THE LIKE
OF WHICH I HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED
BEFORE, AND COULD NOT HELP
MYSELF FROM EJACULATING INTO
HER MOUTH. AFTER EJACULATING, I
ONCE AGAIN FELT SEXUAL EXCITE-
MENT, AND ATTEMPTED SEXUAL
INTERCOURSE WITH HER. HOWEVER, "
VICE CHAIRMAN" REFUSED, FEARING
THAT "CHAIRMAN" WOULD BECOME
SUSPICIOUS IF WE STAYED AT THE
BEACH ANY LONGER, WE DECIDED TO
GO BACK TO THE "HOUSE". SEVERAL
DAYS LATER, AS I WITNESSED "VICE
CHAIRMAN" CARESSING "CHAIRMAN'S"
GENITALS WITH HER MOUTH IN ORDER
TO CONDUCT "PHYSICAL EJECTION",
MY MIND WAS TAKEN OVER BY JEAL-
OUSY AND SEXUAL EXCITEMENT. AT
MIDNIGHT OF THAT DAY, I INVITED "
VICE CHAIRMAN" OUT OF THE HOUSE
AS WE KISSED AND CARESSED EACH
OTHER'S BODIES AND GENITALS.

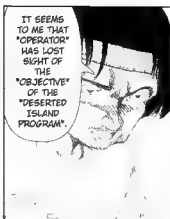


FIRST OF ALL,
THE EXPLANA-
TION IS LACKING
IN ANY SENSE
OF DIRECTION
REGARDING HOW
HE SHOULD
REDEEM HIMSELF
FOR THE SINS
HE COMMITTED.

WHY NOT?
"OPERATOR"
HAS JUST
TOLD THE
FULL AND
COMPLETE
"TRUTH"...



...NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH.





"OPERATOR",
YOU HAVE NOT
TOLD ME EVEN A
FRACTION OF THE
"TRUTH". DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I MEAN
WHEN I SAY
"TRUTH" HERE?



I WILL BE
HONEST
HERE, I
THOUGHT
"CHAIRMAN"
WAS A #5%.



LET'S BE
HONEST
HERE, YOU
THOUGHT I
WAS A #5%,
DIDN'T YOU?



I NOTICED THAT
"CHAIRMAN" HAD
BEEN ACTING
STRANGELY
EVER SINCE THE
"FEVER", AND
SUSPECTED THAT
THERE MIGHT BE
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
HIM.



WHAT WERE
YOUR
THOUGHTS
AND
FEELINGS?
FOR
INSTANCE,
WHAT DID YOU
THINK OF ME?



...
PERHAPS
I MIGHT
HAVE.

DID YOU EVER
THINK THAT YOU'D
LIKE TO KILL
"CHAIRMAN", WHO
HAD BECOME A
#5%, SO THAT
YOU CAN BE ALONE
WITH "VICE
CHAIRMAN"?



BE SILENT!
WHAT HE
HAS JUST
SAID IS OF
SERIOUS
CONSEQUENCE.

OBJECTION!
"OPERATOR"
WAS
CLEARLY
INDUCED INTO
GIVING THAT
ANSWER!



THIS IS A CRUCIAL
SITUATION WE HAVE
HERE. THIS MATTER
MAY BE BEYOND
OUR CONTROL. WE
WILL NEED TO
CONSULT WITH THE
"1ST DIVISION". THIS
WILL NO DOUBT
REQUIRE A
HARSHER
INVESTIGATION.

HE CALLED ME,
THE LEADER OF
THIS TEAM, A #5%
AND CONFESSED
TO HARBORING A
DESIRE TO KILL ME
A CLEAR SIGN OF
"TREASON". "TREASON"
AGAINST THE
"ORGANIZATION"
ITSELF.





15





ARE YOU
GOING TO
POISON
ME TOO?
JUST
LIKE YOU
POISONED
"CHAIR-
MAN"
BACK
THEN.

AREN'T
YOU
GOING
TO
DRINK
IT?
YOU'LL
DIE OF
THIRST.

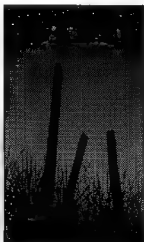


"MASTER"
WAS
JUST
HERE A
MOMENT
AGO.

WHAT ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
PLEASE
GET A
GRIP OF
YOURSELF,
"OPERA-
TOR"!!







CHAPTER 1
MUTATION

TRANSLATED BY
GUAN-FEI
SOLDIER AND
STEPHEN

SCANNED AND
EDITED BY *hugoboss*
02/02





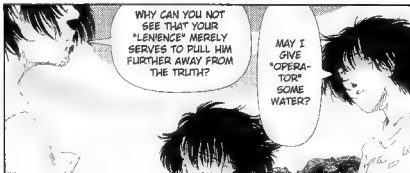


"OPER-
ATOR"
BARELY
MOVED
AT ALL



THE WIND
IS
STRONG
TODAY,
ISN'T IT?







I AM DISCUSS-
ING THIS WITH
YOU, "VICE
CHAIRMAN",
BECAUSE IT
INVOLVES YOU
AS WELL.

I THINK THIS IS
THE BIGGEST FRUIT
OF THE
"DESERTED ISLAND
PROGRAM", A
"PERSONAL
UNIVERSE" ON A
GRAND AND
UNPRECEDENTED
SCALE.

MY
"DREAM
EPIC" IS
NEARING ITS
COMPLE-
TION.



IT WAS TO
DO WITH
THE
"DREAM" I
SAW LAST
NIGHT.



...
WHAT
IS IT?



I DREAMED
THAT I,
"CHAIRMAN",
AND YOU,
"VICE CHAIR-
MAN" WERE
JOINED
TOGETHER IN
A "PHYSICAL
BOND".



"IS THIS AN "EVIL DREAM"? HAVE I BECOME ONE OF THOSE "SCUM" WHOSE MIND HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THEIR LIBIDO? YES, I TOO ASKED THOSE QUESTIONS. I TOO ASKED THEM, BUT THE CONCLUSION I REACHED WAS "NO". IT WAS NOT MY LIBIDO THAT MADE ME SEE THAT "DREAM".

THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE SO SHOCKED. PLEASE RELAX, AND LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, THIS WAS NOT BORNE OUT OF SOME OBSCENE "LUST".

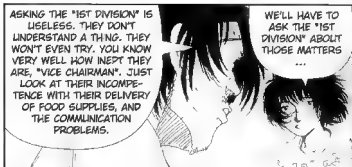
IS
"LOVE".

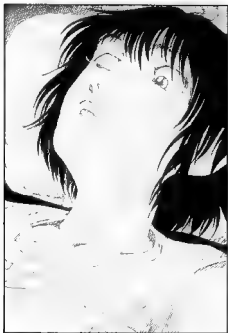
PERHAPS
THIS...

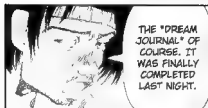
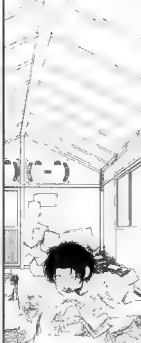
THIS
"PHYSICAL BOND" DID NOT ARISE FROM ANY DIRTY MOTIVES. IT HAD A MUCH HOLIER ORIGIN.

THE PURENESS AND SUBLIMITY I FELT WHILST WE WERE "BONDING" SHOULD STAND TESTIMONY TO THAT

AND WITH THE TWO OF US "BONDING" IN REAL LIFE, THIS WOULD SERVE AS THE FINAL LINK BETWEEN THE "DREAM" AND THE "REAL WORLD",











12







I DO NOT INTEND TO CRITICIZE THIS. I'M CERTAIN THAT "MASTER" WOULD NOT HAVE DONE SO IF THERE WEREN'T SOME DEEP MEANING BEHIND IT. IT WAS REPORTED IN THE MAGAZINE I FOUND ON THE BEACH.



YOU HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY "BONDING" WITH HIM.



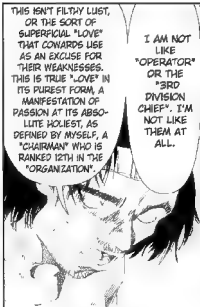
I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING THESE KINDS OF THINGS WITH "MASTER". IN FACT, I HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT FOR SOME TIME NOW

I KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON, "VICE CHAIRMAN".



I HAVE FINALLY
"UNDERSTOOD"
EVERYTHING. THE
"3RD DIVISION
CHIEF" WAS NOT
CAPTURED BY THE
"AUTHORITIES". HE
SOUGHT THE
"AUTHORITIES" OUT
ON HIS OWN.

THAT'S NOT
TRUE. THAT'S
JUST ONE OF
THOSE LIES
THAT THE
FILTHY MEDIA
SPREAD. AS
I'VE SAID
BEFORE...



THIS ISN'T FILTHY LUST,
OR THE SORT OF
SUPERFICIAL "LOVE"
THAT CONARDS USE
AS AN EXCUSE FOR
THEIR WEAKNESSES.
THIS IS TRUE "LOVE" IN
ITS PUREST FORM, A
MANIFESTATION OF
PASSION AT ITS ABSO-
LUTE HOLIEST, AS
DEFINED BY MYSELF, A
"CHAIRMAN" WHO IS
RANKED 12TH IN THE
"ORGANIZATION".

I AM NOT
LIKE
"OPERATOR"
OR THE
"3RD
DIVISION
CHIEF". I'M
NOT LIKE
THEM AT
ALL.



"CHAIRMAN",
YOU'RE NO
LONGER...



THE "3RD DIVISION CHIEF"
LEARNED OF THE "PHYSI-
CAL BONDING" BETWEEN
"MASTER" AND YOURSELF.
HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND
THE DEEP MEANING BEHIND
THE "BONDING" AND BEGAN
QUESTIONING THE
"ORGANIZATION", UNTIL HE
EVENTUALLY DESERTED
AND RAN TO THE "AUTHOR-
ITIES". HE DIDN'T HAVE
WHAT IT TAKES.



YOU'RE NO
LONGER
"CHAIR-
MAN", NOR
ARE YOU
RANKED
12TH ANY
MORE.





17





19





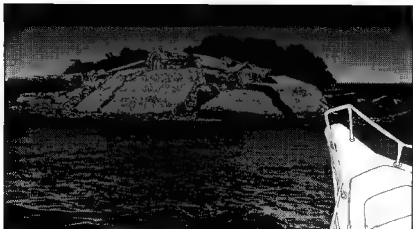
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CHAPTER 13 DISMISSAL OF CHAIRMAN



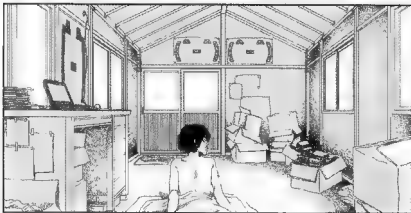


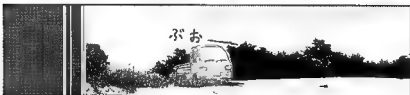
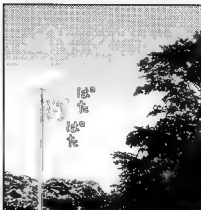




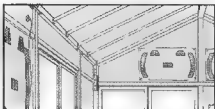


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12



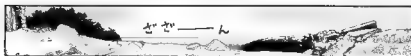


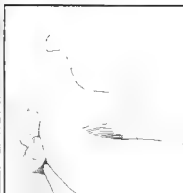


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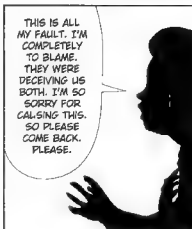
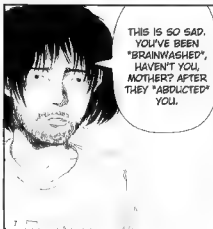


18





CHAPTER 17 HAPPY TIMES



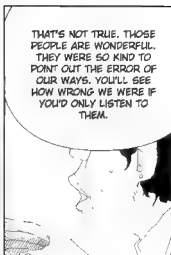


THIS IS
ALL MY
FAULT. I
KNOW
THAT.



JUST
LIKE WHAT
I ONCE
TRIED TO
DO TO
YOU?

SO NOW
YOU'RE
TRYING
TO DRAG
ME BACK
TO THE
FILTHY
WORLD?



THAT'S NOT TRUE. THOSE
PEOPLE ARE WONDERFUL.
THEY WERE SO KIND TO
POINT OUT THE ERROR OF
OUR WAYS. YOU'LL SEE
HOW WRONG WE WERE IF
YOU'D ONLY LISTEN TO
THEM.

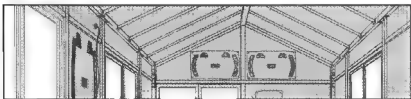


THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU
TO COME BACK. THAT'S WHY
I'M ASKING YOU TO COME
BACK. THAT'S WHY I'M
ASKING YOU TO COME BACK.



YAH.

THAT'S
WHY
I'M...

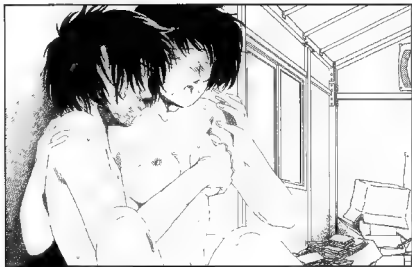








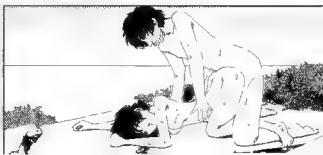
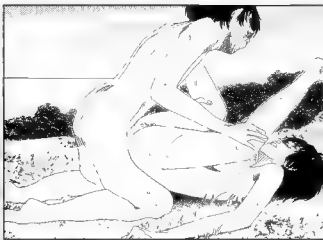






HAVING
SEX WITH
EACH
OTHER
WAS ALL
WE DID
AFTER
THAT.

10





WE WERE
DOING IT SO
MUCH THAT
WE STOPPED
CARING
WHETHER IT
WENT
AGAINST THE
"TEACHING"
OR NOT.

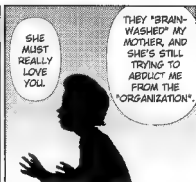




12







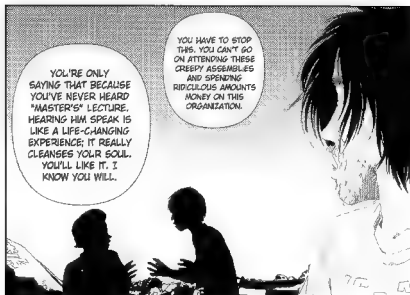


MOTHER,



LOOK
HOW BIG
THIS
HERMIT
CRAB IS

I THINK IT'S
EDIBLE. I MEAN,
CRAYFISH ARE
EDIBLE, SO I'D
ASSUME HERMIT
CRABS ARE TOO.



YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD "MASTER'S" LECTURE. HEARING HIM SPEAK IS LIKE A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE; IT REALLY CLEANSSES YOUR SOUL. YOU'LL LIKE IT. I KNOW YOU WILL.

YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS. YOU CAN'T GO ON ATTENDING THESE CREEPY ASSEMBLES AND SPENDING RIDICULOUS AMOUNTS MONEY ON THIS ORGANIZATION.

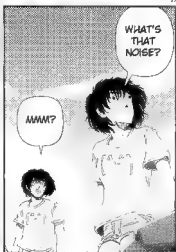


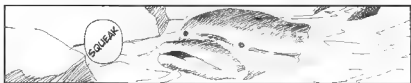
WHAT'S THE MATTER?



MY RANKING IMPROVED. IT WENT UP 5 NOTCHES. THEY SAID THAT IT WAS AN UNPRECEDENTED FEAT.

THEY'RE DECEIVING YOU, MOTHER. WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?







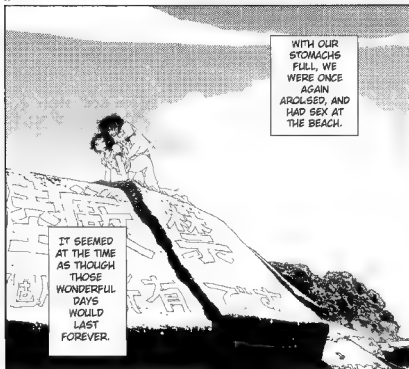


AND THUS
WE EVOLVE
FROM A
LIFE OF
GATHERING
TO A LIFE
OF AGRI-
CULTURE.



WE SHOULD
TRY MAKING
OUR OWN
FIELDS WHEN
THE "1ST DIVI-
SION" SENDS
US BEANS AND
POTATOES
NEXT TIME.

20



WITH OUR
STOMACHS
FULL, WE
WERE ONCE
AGAIN
AROLSED, AND
HAD SEX AT
THE BEACH.

IT SEEMED
AT THE TIME
AS THOUGH
THOSE
WONDERFUL
DAYS
WOULD
LAST
FOREVER.

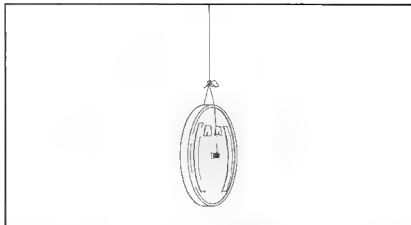
MANGA SCREENER
BANDORI TH HAWK

TRANSLATED BY
SUMMER SOLDIER
SCANNED AND EDITED BY
GATSO

CHAPTER 18 - NEW CHAIRMAN





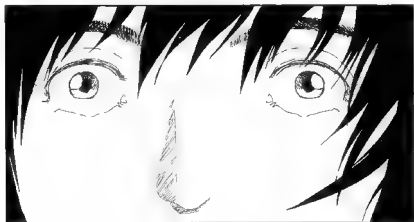


IT HAS BEEN
DAYS SINCE
THE "BOAT"
CAME TO THIS
"ISLAND". NOR
HAS THERE
BEEN ANY
EMAILS FROM
THE "1ST
DIVISION".



THE
"GATHERING"
TOOK CARE OF
THE FOOD, BUT
OUR WATER
SUPPLIES
WERE ABOUT
TO RUN OUT.









WHY AM I
SEEING
THESE
THINGS?
WHAT DOES
IT MEAN?

IT ONLY
MEANS
THAT
YOUR
"ABILITY"
IS IMPROV-
ING.



THEY WERE
DEFEATED BY THEIR
OWN WEAKNESSES.
THE "PROGRAM"
WAS TOO MUCH
FOR THEM AND
THEY DIED, THOSE
POOR SOULS.

THE CORPSES
I SAW...
THEY MUST'VE
BEEN THE
PEOPLE THAT
PERISHED ON
THIS
"ISLAND".



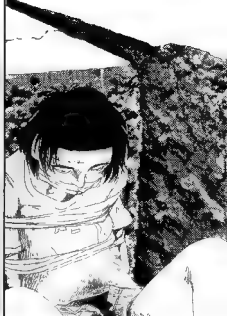
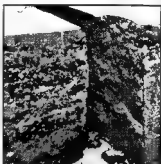




OH,
NOTHING.



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER
?



YES. I
HAVEN'T
HAD MY
PERIOD
EVERY
SINCE I
CAME
HERE.

ARE
YOU
SURE?



I'M
ABOUT
TO
COME.

COME
INSIDE
OF ME.



10







I WISHED
TO BE A
GOOD
"SIGN" BUT
I WAS
"SIGNED"

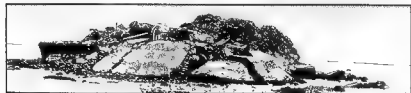
SURELY
IT MUST
BE A
GOOD
"SIGN"



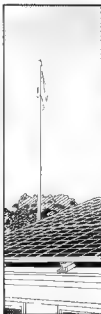
13







15





46







I'M SORRY
THAT YOU
WEREN'T GIVEN
PRIOR NOTICE
OF THIS, AS
THE DECISION
WAS MADE SO
SUDDENLY. LET
US ALL WORK
TOGETHER FOR
OUR "COMPA-
TRIOTS".

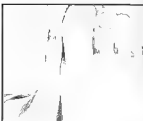
HELLO, I'M
THE NEW
"CHAIRMAN"
OF THIS
ISLAND.

LB



"3RD
DIVISION
CHIEF"

...



CHAPTER 19

WONDERFUL NEWS





PLANS
FOR OUR
JOURNEY TO
THE "LAND OF
COMFORT"
HAVE BEEN
FINALIZED AT
LAST.

I HAVE
WONDER-
FUL
NEWS TO
IMPART.



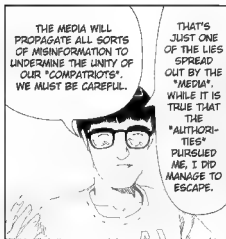
WHERE IS
THE "LAND OF
COMFORT"
LOCATED?
WHEN WILL WE
BE MAKING OUR
"EXODUS"?

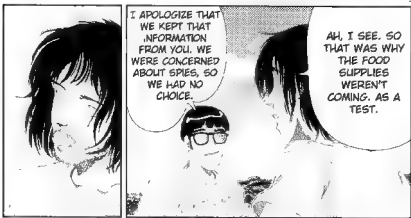
WOW...



THIS ISLAND WILL
BE THE STOPOVER
POINT FOR THE
JOURNEY. OUR
"COMPATRIOTS"
WILL BE GATHERING
HERE IN SEVERAL
DAYS' TIME.

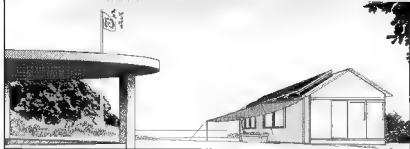
I CAN'T
REVEAL
THAT YET,
BUT REST
ASSURED
THAT IT
WILL BE
COMING
SOON.



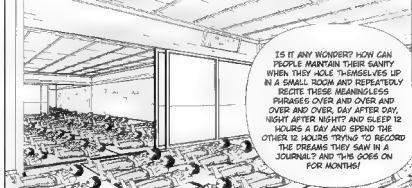








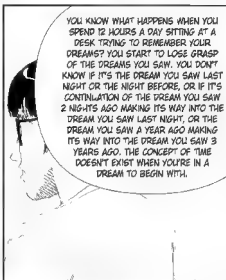




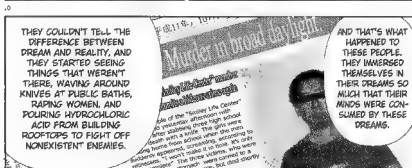
IS IT ANY WONDER? HOW CAN PEOPLE MAINTAIN THEIR SANITY WHEN THEY HOLE THEMSELVES UP IN A SMALL ROOM AND REPEATEDLY RECITE THESE MEANINGLESS PHRASES OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER, DAY AFTER DAY, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT? AND SLEEP 12 HOURS A DAY AND SPEND THE OTHER 12 HOURS TRYING TO RECORD THE DREAMS THEY SAW IN A JOURNAL? AND THIS GOES ON FOR MONTHS!



AND EVENTUALLY, YOU START TO THINK THAT ALL THE DREAMS YOU SAW ARE CONNECTED, AND THEY BECOME A WORLD IN ITSELF. AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU'RE ON THE VERGE OF LOSING YOUR HOLD ON REALITY. THE DREAMS START TO FEEL MORE REAL TO YOU THAN THE REAL WORLD.



YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SPEND 12 HOURS A DAY SITTING AT A DESK TRYING TO REMEMBER YOUR DREAMS? YOU START TO LOSE GRASP OF THE DREAMS YOU SAW. YOU DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE DREAM YOU SAW LAST NIGHT OR THE NIGHT BEFORE, OR IF IT'S CONTINUATION OF THE DREAM YOU SAW 2 NIGHTS AGO MAKING ITS WAY INTO THE DREAM YOU SAW LAST NIGHT, OR THE DREAM YOU SAW A YEAR AGO MAKING ITS WAY INTO THE DREAM YOU SAW 3 YEARS AGO. THE CONCEPT OF TIME DOESN'T EXIST WHEN YOU'RE IN A DREAM TO BEGIN WITH.



THEY COULDN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY, AND THEY STARTED SEEING THINGS THAT WEREN'T THERE, WAVING AROUND KNIVES AT PUBLIC BATHS, RAPING WOMEN, AND POURING HYDROCHLORIC ACID FROM BUILDING ROOFTOPS TO FIGHT OFF NONEXISTENT ENEMIES.

AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE PEOPLE. THEY IMMERSSED THEMSELVES IN THEIR DREAMS SO MUCH THAT THEIR MINDS WERE CONSUMED BY THESE DREAMS.



11





HAVE YOU
BEEN
"BRAINWASHED"?
DID THE
"ENEMY" DO THAT
TO YOU WHILE
YOU WERE BEING
CAPTURED BY THE
"AUTHORITIES"?

12



SAVE
ME?
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

THE
"COMPATRIOTS"
WILL CONVENE ON
THIS ISLAND
SEVERAL DAYS
LATER TO PREPARE
FOR THE
"IMMIGRATION".



I WENT BACK
TO THE "CENTER"
PRETENDING THAT
I STILL BELIEVE IN
"MASTER", AND
BARELY MANAGED
TO MAKE IT TO
THIS ISLAND.
BECAUSE I
WANTED TO
SAVE YOU.

THAT SCOUNDREL
HAS BEEN
DECEIVING US
ALL ALONG. I
HAVE FINALLY
REGAINED MY
SANITY. I'VE
AWOKEN TO
REALITY,
HISHIKO.







CAN YOU IMAGINE
WHAT IT WAS LIKE
FOR ME, FORBIDDEN
BY "MASTER'S"
TEACHING TO EVEN
TOUCH YOU? I
WANTED TO
EMBRACE YOU IN MY
ARMS SO MUCH.

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA HOW
MUCH I
LOVE YOU?
HOW I FELT
WHILE YOU
WERE
AWAY?



THERE
WERE
BINOCU-
LARS ON
THE SHIP.
I SAW
WHAT
YOU TWO
WERE
DOING.

I SAW
YOU
AND
"OPERA-
TOR"
FROM
THE
BOAT.



LET US
ESCAPE THE
"ORGANIZA-
TION". LET
US LIVE
TOGETHER
SOME-
WHERE
FAR
AWAY.



BUT...



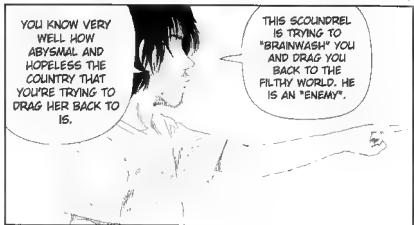
18

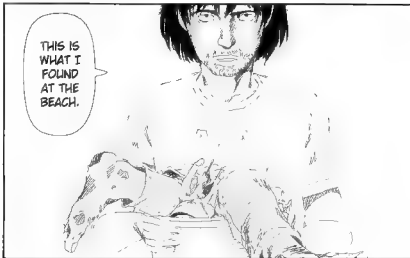
I CHOSE TO INTERPRET IT AS MY OWN SIN. THIS WAS MY PUNISHMENT FOR LEAVING YOU ALONE FOR SO LONG. I BEG YOU TO FORGIVE ME FOR MY SINS, HISHIKO. BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT MY "LOVE" FOR YOU REMAINS UNCHANGED.

I WAS STUNNED. THE PAIN WAS UNBEARABLE, AND I WANTED TO KILL YOU BOTH AND THEN END MY OWN LIFE BY DIVING INTO THE SEA. THAT'S HOW SHOCKED I WAS. BUT MY "LOVE" FOR YOU REMAINED UNCHANGED.



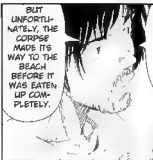
17







BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE CORPSE MADE ITS WAY TO THE BEACH BEFORE IT WAS EATEN UP COMPLETELY.



APPARENTLY, THE FISH WENT AFTER THE INNARDS FIRST. IT WAS ALL EATEN UP.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. OF COURSE IT'S NOT TRUE. I HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO KILL HIM. I WAS CAUGHT HIDING IN THE BOAT, AND I TRIED TO EXPLAIN HIM THE TRUTH, BUT HE JUST REFUSED TO UNDERSTAND. HE ATTACKED ME, SO I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND MYSELF. HE TRIED TO THROW ME OFF THE BOAT, BUT ENDED UP FALLING INTO THE SEA HIMSELF.

IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. I NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT HERE IF I HADN'T DONE SO.

YOU SNEAKED INTO THE BOAT WITH THE INTENTION TO ABDUCT "VICE CHAIRMAN", AND YOU KILLED HIM. AND THEN YOU CAME HERE TO THIS ISLAND, PRETENDING TO BE THE NEW "VICE CHAIRMAN". ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEXT "CHAIRMAN", WASN'T HE?





20



CHAPTER 20 THE LAND OF COMFORT

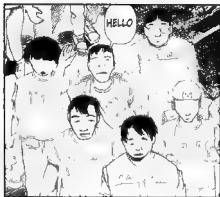


THEY WERE THE
MOMENTS OF THE



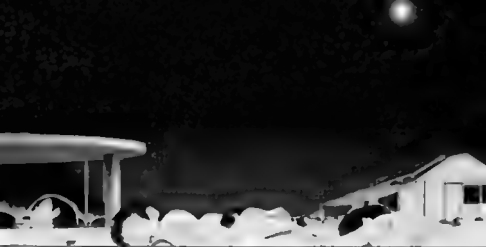


3











BUT
THAT'S
WHAT
"3RD
DIVISION
CHIEF"
SAID.



MASS
SUICIDE?
I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT.



I'M NOT
SAYING
THAT,
BUT...



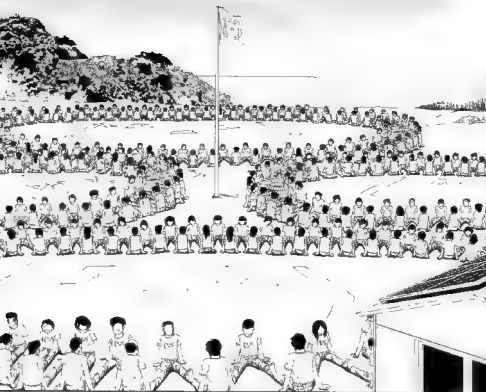
AND YOU
BELIEVE
HIM, AFTER
ALL THAT
HE DID?



"MASTER" IS A
MAN OF INTEGRITY
AND HONOR. HOW
CAN YOU EVEN
THINK THAT HE'D
TRY TO KILL
US ALL?
YOU NEED TO GET
A GRIP OF
YOURSELF, "VICE
CHAIRMAN". WE'RE
ABOUT TO EMBARK
FOR THE "LAND OF
COMFORT", FOR
HEAVEN'S SAKE.

YOU'RE
BEING
DECEIVED
BY THAT
SCOUNDREL,
"VICE
CHAIRMAN".





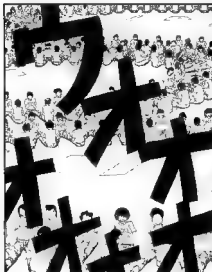
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE SPY.





10







PLEASE
"CONCENTRATE"
AND
LISTEN TO
WHAT I
HAVE TO
SAY.

AND NOW
I HAVE
IMPORTANT
NEWS TO
IMPART.



YOU WILL NOT
BE ALLOWED
TO SET FOOT
IN THE "LAND
OF COMFORT"
UNTIL YOU
ELEVATE YOUR
LEVEL OF
BEING
FURTHER.

IN ORDER TO REACH
THE "LAND OF
COMFORT", IT WILL BE
NECESSARY FOR US
TO COMPLETELY
ABANDON OUR OLD
SELVES AND BECOME
A "NEW BEING".

12



NO MATTER HOW
HARD WE MAY TRY
TO FOLLOW THE
"CORRECT PATH",
THERE IS NO DENYING
THAT AS INHABITANTS
OF THE "FILTHY
WORLD", SOME OF
THE "FILTH" HAS
BEEN RUBBED INTO
OUR BODIES.

YOU
MUST
NOT
TAINT
THE
HOLY
POND
WITH
DIRTY
FEET.



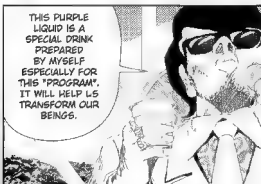
WE SHALL COMMENCE WITH THE "PROGRAM" TO HEIGHTEN OUR "LEVEL OF BEING".



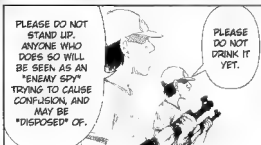
AND NOW, UPON OUR DEPARTURE FOR THE "LAND OF COMFORT".



PLEASE REPEAT THE MESSAGE I WILL RECITE, AND THEN WE CAN ALL DRINK UP.



THIS PURPLE LIQUID IS A SPECIAL DRINK PREPARED BY MYSELF ESPECIALLY FOR THIS "PROGRAM". IT WILL HELP US TRANSFORM OUR BEINGS.



PLEASE DO NOT STAND UP. ANYONE WHO DOES SO WILL BE SEEN AS AN "ENEMY SPY" TRYING TO CAUSE CONFUSION, AND MAY BE "DISPOSED" OF.

PLEASE DO NOT DRINK IT YET.



'A NEW
WORLD
...'



'A NEW
WORLD
...'



'WE SHALL
RISE ABOVE
THE
"RANKINGS"
AND ENTER
INTO A NEW
LEVEL',



'WE SHALL
RISE ABOVE
THE
"RANKINGS"
AND ENTER
INTO A NEW
LEVEL'.



'...IN
WHICH
THERE
EXISTS
NEITHER
HATRED
NOR
GREED'.



'...AND
EMBARK
ON OUR
JOURNEY
TO THE
"LAND OF
COMFORT".'



'...IN WHICH
THERE EXISTS
NEITHER
HATRED
NOR
GREED'.

DON'T
DRINK
IT.



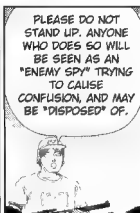
'...AND
EMBARK
ON OUR
JOURNEY
TO THE
"LAND OF
COMFORT".'



'WE SHALL
JOIN HAND
IN HAND, IN
ORDER TO
ENTER
INTO A
NEW LEVEL
...'



'WE SHALL
JOIN HAND
IN HAND, IN
ORDER TO
ENTER INTO
A NEW
LEVEL...'



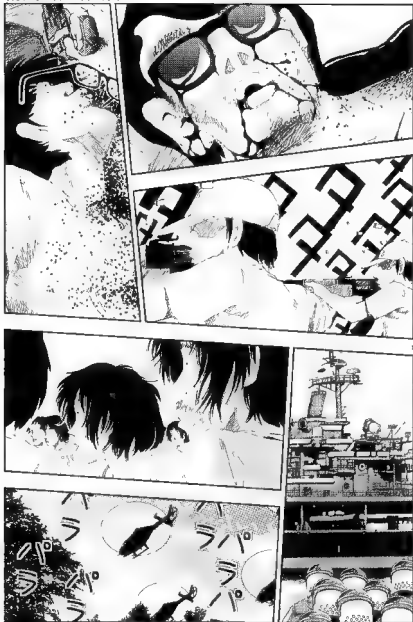


16





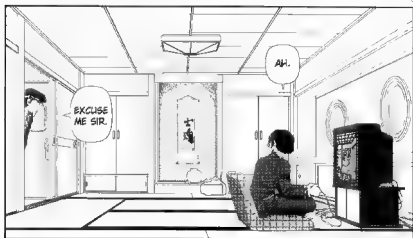


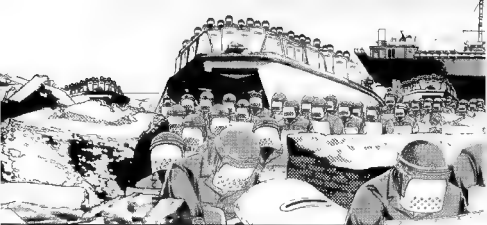


Day 32



CHAPTER 21 NEW MEN





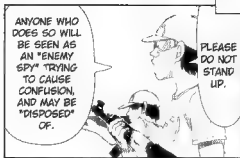
CALM
DOWN
EVERYONE!
THIS IS
JUST TEAR
GAS!



THIS IS
POISON GAS!
THE ENEMIES
ARE
ATTACKING!

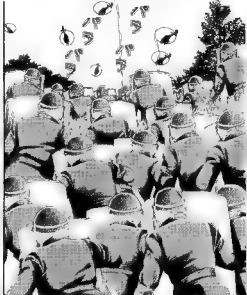


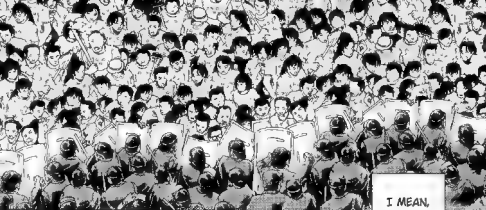
IT'S HARD
FOR ME TO
RECALL WHAT
EXACTLY
HAPPENED
AFTER THAT.



ANYONE WHO
DOES SO WILL
BE SEEN AS
AN "ENEMY
SPY" TRYING
TO CAUSE
CONFUSION,
AND MAY BE
"DISPOSED"
OF.

PLEASE
DO NOT
STAND
UP.





I MEAN,
SO MANY
THINGS
HAPPENED
ALL AT
ONCE.



THERE WAS
CONFUSION
EVERYWHERE,
WITH ALL THE
TEAR GAS AND
FIGHTING
GOING ON, AND
MY HEAD WAS
INJURED.



THE
LAND
...

OF
COMFORT
...

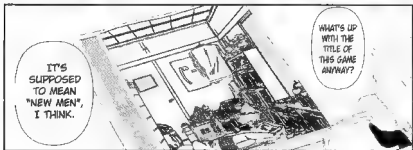


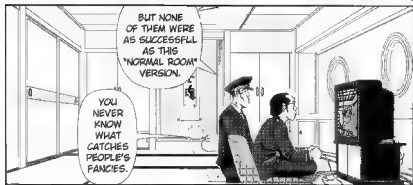
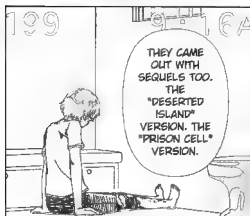
THE SCENES THAT
CAME BACK TO ME AS
A SERIES OF
INTERMITTENT
FLASHBACKS, AND THE
NIGHTMARES I KEPT
HAVING SINCE THEN
HAD BECOME TANGLED
UP IN MY MIND. THEY
FORMED A WHOLE
STREAM OF
CONSCIOUSNESS UNTO
ITSELF, AND IT BECAME
HARD FOR ME TO
DISCERN WHETHER
THOSE EVENTS REALLY
HAPPENED, OR IF THEY
WERE JUST ILLUSIONS
I WAS SEEING IN MY
HEAD.

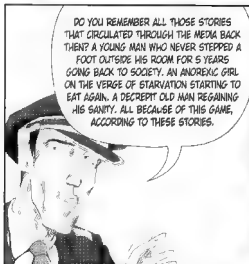


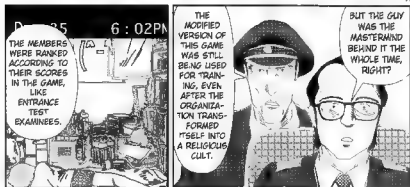
"VICE
CHAIRMAN"
!!

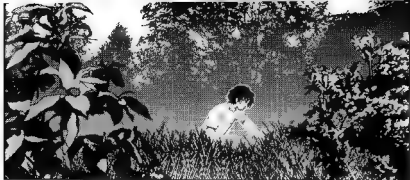




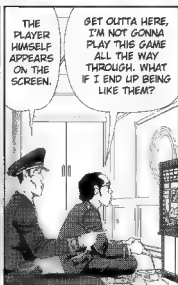


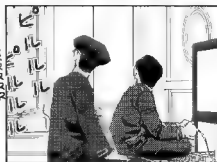






12

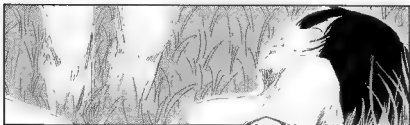




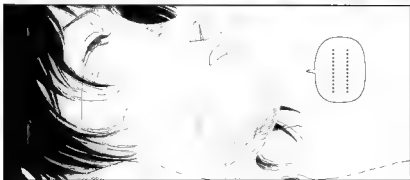
RRRRRRRRRR



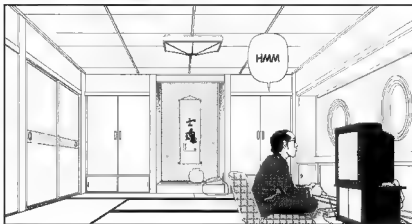




16







CHAPTER 22 EXODUS FROM BABYLON ON A BOAT

TRANSLATED BY
SUMMERSOLDIER
SCANNED AND EDITED BY
DATSU
MANGASCREENER.COM
THEHAWKS.ORG

AND SO WE MADE
OUR RETURN TO
THE "OTHER SIDE".
"THE LAND OF
CORRUPTION,
OBSCENITY,
RECALCITRANCE,
VAPIDITY AND
WORTHLESSNESS".



I
THOUGHT
FOR SURE
THAT YOU
DIED BACK
THERE.





NO, REALLY.
I THINK IT'S
A WONDER
THAT YOU
SURVIVED A
INJURY LIKE
THAT.



OH,
YOU'RE SO
OVERDRA-
MATIC.



BUT IT
WAS SO
DELI-
CIOUS.

WE DIDN'T
HAVE MUCH
OF A CHOICE,
SINCE FLOUR
WAS ALL WE
HAD.



DO YOU
REMEMBER THAT
PASTA WE MADE
FROM CLAMS
AND SEAWATER?

OF
COURSE



I TRIED
IT
ONCE,
AFTER
COMING
BACK
HERE.





I DREAM OF IT
EVERY NIGHT. I
NEVER NOTICED
THE BEAUTY
WHEN I WAS
THERE. I WAS
TOO ENGAGED
IN THE
PROGRAM.

THE SUN
SETTING INTO
THE SEA...
IT WAS SO
BEAUTIFUL, IT
WOULD BRING
TEARS TO
MY EYES.



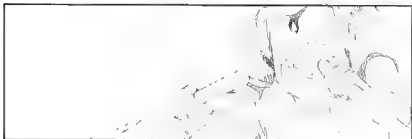
I DREAM OF
THE SUNSET
EVERY NIGHT.
THE SUNSET ON
THAT ISLAND.



ACTUALLY, I
THINK IT WAS
LIFE ON THAT
ISLAND THAT
WAS LIKE A
DREAM, IF I
LOOK BACK
AT IT NOW.



IT'S LIKE A DREAM,
ISN'T IT? THE FACT
THAT WE'RE ON A
BOAT RIGHT NOW,
SURROUNDED BY
TRANQUILITY.





"LET US WORK
HARD FOR OUR
COMPATRIOTS",
HEHE.

GOD,
YOU'RE
UNBELIEV-
ABLE

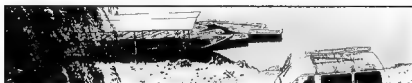
YOU'RE
GONNA
GET
ARRESTED



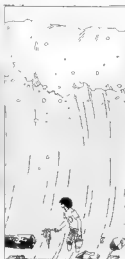
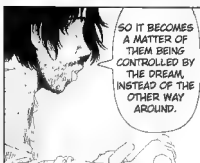
OH COME ON WHY
NOT? I ACTUALLY
WENT TO THE
"SMILEY LIFE
CENTER" STORE TO
BUY THIS.

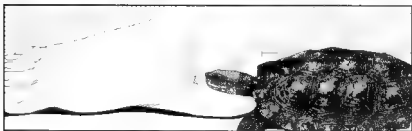
I DON'T
THINK
THAT
SHIRT IS
A GOOD
IDEA,
MAN.

DID YOU
SEE THE
WAY THAT
GUY
LOOKED AT
YOU? HE
PROBABLY
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
#BX5.



RECENT STUDIES
HAVE REVEALED
THAT THE GAME
WHICH BEGAT THE
"SMILEY LIFE
CENTER" AND THE
VARIOUS
PROGRAMS THAT
FOLLOWED CAN
CAUSE SEVERE
DISTORTIONS TO
ONE'S PERCEPTION
OF REALITY.











11



THEN
WOULDN'T
IT BE
POSSIBLE, FOR
INSTANCE, FOR
YOU TO
BECOME NAKED
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

IF THIS
IS A
DREAM
...



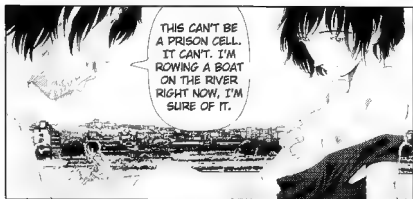
LIKE
THIS?



IT'LL
TAKE
TIME.

I STILL
HAVEN'T FULLY
RECOVERED
FROM THE
INJURY, AND
THAT'S WHY
I'M SEEING
THESE
THINGS.

I'M
SEEING
FLASH-
BACKS.





14





.5

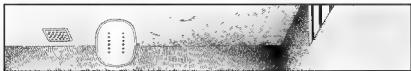
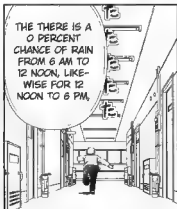


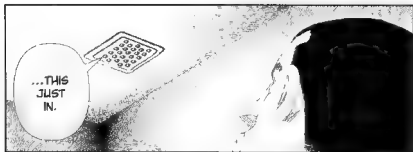


16

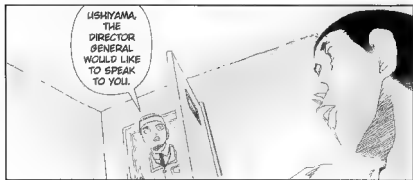








19





20







THERE ARE PEOPLE THERE WHO ARE FACED WITH THE SAME PERSECUTION AS WE ARE, AND SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR IDEALS. THEY'RE HELPING US.



I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE DETAILS NOW BECAUSE THE CALL IS BEING BUGGED, BUT WE'RE BUILDING OUR "LAND OF COMFORT" IN A FOREIGN LAND.



LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS".



WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE, "OPERATOR". LEAVE THE "LAND OF DEPRAVITY" AND COME JOIN US BUILD A BETTER SOCIETY.



I AM NOT "OPERATOR" ANY MORE.



I HAVE
NO
INTENTION
OF
LEAVING
HERE.



23



I HAVE NO
INTENTION
OF
LEAVING
HERE.



ARE YOU
FEELING
REMORSE FOR
"DISPOSING"
THEM? WELL
YOU SHOULDN'T.
THOSE "SCUM"
DIDN'T DESERVE
TO LIVE.

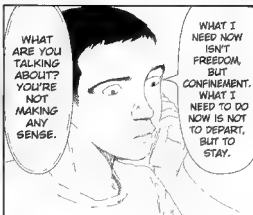


YOU'LL BE
TRIED IF YOU
STAY OVER
THERE, AND
YOU'LL MOST
LIKELY BE...

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? YOU
CAN HAVE YOUR
FREEDOM.
"OPERATOR".
YOU CAN
DEPART FOR
THE "LAND OF
COMFORT"
RIGHT
NOW.



HAVE YOU
BEEN
BRAIN-
WASHED
BY THE
"ENEMY"?

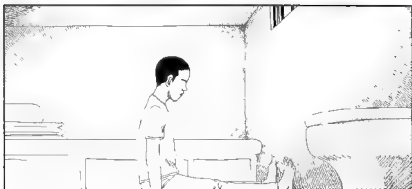


WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
YOU'RE
NOT
MAKING
ANY
SENSE.

WHAT I
NEED NOW
ISN'T
FREEDOM,
BUT
CONFINEMENT.
WHAT I
NEED TO DO
NOW IS NOT
TO DEPART,
BUT TO
STAY.

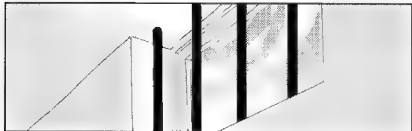


...
PERHAPS
I HAVE.





26





27



TO THE
OTHER
SHORE.

[附 照]

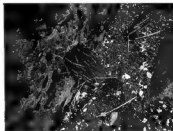
ビッヂコミックスビジュアル1999年36・37合併号(8月25・26日号)～41号の1220号),
41号(10月18日号)～42号(11月22日号)までを収録。

I first saw this island in a color page feature in Big Comic magazine entitled "100 Ruins". I was impressed with how desolate the setting was, and used my connections at Shogakukan to borrow the photos. I would like to extend my gratitude for the kindness of everyone concerned in arranging this for me.

So even though the island had served as a model for Believers, I hadn't had the opportunity to actually see it for myself, until the occasion presented itself mid-series - I was to take some nude photographs there. The island was less than an hour away from Hakkeijima Sea Paradise on board a fishing boat, smack dab in the middle of Tokyo Bay. To its east was Tomitsu Cape in Chiba Prefecture, and to its west was the down town district of Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture - both clearly visible from the island. Our mobiles worked just fine, and there was something very surreal about seeing our designer talk to his various clients in this setting with his cell phone. Strangely enough, the island was inhabited by cacti. There were many shipping boats in the surrounding seas, and for some reason, or perhaps predictably, some of them came near when we commenced with our nude photo session. There was nothing to block us from the sun, so all of us - myself, the staff, and the model - were quickly sunburned, and our skins took no time in taking on a reddish color.

The cover art for the chapter "New Chairman" was taken directly from the photo we took then.

On a final note, both the First Sea Fortress and the Third Sea Fortress has apparently sunk into the sea.



The story for Believers is set on a remote, deserted island floating in the outer seas of Japan, far away from the mainland. However, the setting was modeled after the Second Sea Fortress, a small artificial island (approx. 500 meters in diameter) off the coast of Tokyo Bay.

The island was originally built by the Japanese military in the late 1910s as a fortress, but was destroyed shortly after completion in the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. The island was built from stone in the middle of oceanic nothingness, and one can imagine that the foundation of the island was weak to begin with. It remained unused and uncoupled for the 80 years following; save for certain parts functioning as modern facilities for the Japanese Coast Guard. The remainder of the island consists of disused cannons and heaps of bricks and concrete used to build the fortress, lending themselves to the sheer unreality of the sight.



Tourist guide to Believers The Second Sea Fortress

by Naoki Yamamoto

Photographs: Naoki Yamamoto
Location: The Second Sea Fortress, Tokyo Bay